

BLUE GRASS BLADE

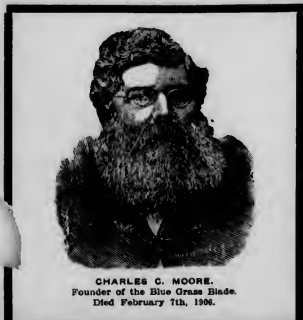
T. Parker
Lith and Ashland East Side

WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH.

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EDITORIAL

Are you moving with the procession.

Freethought is a message of Liberty and Love.

Is God really offended by selling peanuts and popcorn on Sunday?

Mighty few preachers will carry saving grace even to godless sinners without a salary attachment.

Most Christians get up in meeting and talk freely about their little sins to draw attention away from their big ones.

When the plutocrat comes forth in his own person to give battle to labor he must needs wear a full casement of armor, for while terror will stalk before, hell will lurk behind.

As the Russian Emperor understands popular government it means that the people can do as they please so long as they do nothing which clashes with the imperial will.

Now that Elijah Dowie has loomed up as a prophet without honor in his own country he ought to bolt the convention and run for president on the reform ticket.

It is through a variety of occupations that we enjoy a diversity in production, but as bread-winners a pair of bob-tailed mules could give cards and spades to a bobtail flush.

The game of politics is an unprofitable one. Men will labor for months and years to "save" the country, only to learn just before they die that it won't stay saved. Patriotism and pie is the shibboleth of all leading parties to-day, and to the victor really belongs the spoils. What fools these mortals be to dispute about old faiths and plan new follies.

JUST A BIT PERSONAL.

In a recent issue of the Blade a contributor suggested that one of the most potent causes of hard times was that there was not enough of the circulating medium, i.e. money. We are bound to agree with him. By giving vent to this thought we do not speak in a collective sense, but from a purely personal point of view. We have burned the midnight tallow-dip over the monetary acumen of every authority on such subjects from Lysurgus to Mrs. Lease and we are frank to admit that the conclusion to which we are driven is that there is not enough money. At least it is that way with the Blade and it is neither falsehood or fiction, sin or subterfuge, when we declare that the Blade is on the ragged edge of starvation.

By the time this issue reaches the hands of our readers it will be three months since we assumed the editorial management and control of the paper. At the time we realized that it was a stupendous undertaking, but with youth and energy on our side we resolved to do the best we could, and we are vain enough to imagine that we have made a good paper with every issue, but it has taken a quantity of unrequited labor to produce it. All should be willing to admit that those who are occupied in producing the Blade, a paper of its present measure, whether it be with brain and pen, or in the mechanical department, are entitled to a living. At the present time this is far from being the case. The Blade was in debt when we accepted it. The Blade is further in debt today and these are now pressing for payment. From the day we took charge of the paper it has not near paid for the labor expended upon it in printing while our own toil has been a matter of donation. We are now facing a crisis and the conditions have got to be met.

Friends, this is not uttered in the way of complaint, but to make you acquainted with the facts. We do not propose to let the Blade suspend or be discontinued. It must and shall live but you have got to help. We do not ask you to give more to your subscription, except that in addition to paying your own you induce some friend, one or two, to send in a year's subscription along with yours. If every subscriber would do this the Blade could be immediately put on a paying basis, a fair compensation given to those who expend their time and labor upon it and the Blade even improved beyond what it is today. We would like to enlarge it and furnish our readers with more reading matter and better reading matter than what it is now giving.

Several of our readers, as their letters appeared from time to time in the weekly "Letter Box" have suggested that we increase the price of the yearly subscription, but this we have no desire to do. Our boast is that we are publishing the cheapest and best Freethought paper in the country and we do not want to deprive ourselves of that honor. By keeping it at its present rate there is a greater incentive for subscriptions to be made by new readers and this is what we want. The Blade can be made to pay at one dollar per year if we can only get a larger list of subscribers. Every reader of the Blade can contribute towards this desired result if they will but make an effort. Its tone and quality is such that it should appeal to every Freethinker in America. With only ten thousand subscribers it could be made to pay, and pay well, sufficient in fact to give all connected with its publication a decent living.

Now friends, you will be able to understand why it is that shrinkage in the "circulating medium" is the cause of "hard times" in the Blade office. This can be overcome if all will help to increase its circulation. This is all we ask, but the time to do it is now. Don't put it off. Remember our injunction of last week to "Get Busy." If you put it off until to-morrow you may be too late.

MRS. HENRY'S PAMPHLET.

There is no more concise and exhaustive treatment of such an important subject as that of Marriage and Divorce, than the work of Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, of which previous announcement has been made. It should be widely circulated and read. It is calculated to prove a great benefit to all who think seriously upon such topics. Price, 25 cents. Address Mrs. Henry at Versailles, Ky.

Labor is the true, the real Atlas of the world. Upon its rugged shoulders are borne the burdens of mankind. Without seeming to magnify the dangers that confronts this nation it would be the part of wisdom rightly played for our political leaders to make diligent inquiry how Labor is getting along with its contract. Does liberty exist in law? Then legislate that Labor shall become lord of its own life rather than the trembling, fear-stricken creature of another. Labor has filled the land with fatness but it is made to "bend the pregnant bling of the knee" to those who stand over it and must make humble application for the mere privilege of existing upon the earth. Present industrial conditions in America have no parallel. Solve them and pauperism will disappear.

Will somebody, please, deLobsonize Andrew Carnegie? It is reported that he has changed the patrimony he was wont to dole out and has halted in his reckless donations of cash and in his bestowing kisses upon the women of the South. Of-

course, Mr. Carnegie's kisses will offend no one, but for he has reached that age when he can oscillate without serious offense. Yet his conduct appears to be a reflection upon Southern chevaliers who are amply able to take care of their own. This, however, is not the real danger. Carnegie only gave cash when he could make somebody else give more. Suppose, if, from the force of habit, he should say, "I will give away ten thousand kisses on this trip, provided others, stimulated by my example, will give away ten times ten thousand," it would be sad to ponder upon what might happen. If Mr. Carnegie continues in this new form of charitable indulgence he may strive to incorporate Cupid and exploit the little winged god with a view to future profit.

GORKY'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

The scriptures advise us to "reason together," and the Blade imagines the advice was given upon the presumption that from out a multitude of counsel something good may be evolved. No man knows it all and no man holds within his grasp the panacea from every ill with which humanity is afflicted or accursed. There be ills of all sorts and conditions to remedy for which men and women have struggled and labored for years, some with a modicum of success attending their efforts, others still groping in the dark, plodding along though confronted by an almost forlorn hope. By an intelligent discussion upon all forms of social, political and religious evils may mankind learn what really ails society and in the future some beneficent results may be obtained.

In the Letter Box of this issue will be found a communication from W. R. Lohse, of Brooklyn, New York, who takes us to task for our criticism against Maxim Gorky and his affairs de amour. Better for all concerned, at the start, to say that there is much of wisdom in that old maxim, "when in Rome do as Rome does," or words to that effect. This means that when a person emigrates to any country he should be bound by and conform to the law of the country to which he has emigrated. Our critic will be bound to admit that, at best, Maxim Gorky is simply living in adultery, and this is so repugnant to decency that the Blade cannot give its sanction. Too many people mistake liberty for license. Freethought stands for the fullest possible amount of human liberty compatible with decency and orderly wellbeing, as the Blade understands it, but any policy, teaching or conduct that is destructive of the home, the sacredness of the family altar, or that would smother the blessed trinity of father, mother and child, causing the race to revert back to a system of barbarian morality, will never receive the sanction and encouragement of the Blade so long as its present editor remains at the helm.

Accepting the facts in Gorky's case, as given by our critic, it is unfortunate that Gorky is placed in such a predicament and it is equally unfortunate for the cause he represents. No fault can be found with Gorky in that he found it impossible to continue coverture with his legal spouse. He could have separated and there ended the matter, properly altered, or that would smother the blessed trinity of father, mother and child, causing the race to revert back to a system of barbarian morality, will never receive the sanction and encouragement of the Blade so long as its present editor remains at the helm.

If to "uphold the existing morals" is to insist upon the sacredness of the home, the marriage relation, then the Blade must plead guilty, whether they be "church made," or otherwise. The Blade does not approve of or advocate polygamy whether it be in the personality of a Gorky or a Reed Smoot. We know there are men to whom monogamy does violence to the law of their being. We know that many wives are so grossly neglected by their husbands that the holy flame that once burned so brightly on the altar of love mounts no more and the turnpike to perdition is paved with the ashes of loves that are dead. True, indeed, many are married, but not mated. When these discover the true situation and take steps to remedy the wrong by legal measures, they are to be commended rather than condemned. Gorky could have done the same thing. In America he is not hedged about with the same ecclesiastical restrictions as in Russia. Knowing the law of the American nation, as we must presume Gorky did, he could have put his mistress from him until he acquired citizenship rights and then applied for that equitable relief denied to him in his own country.

Right here it would not be amiss to say that too many men have been saddled upon the cause of Freethought, and the cause has had to bear the brunt, who believe and act as Gorky believes and acts. For years this has been a burden inflicted upon every Freethought organization and what the cause needs is men and women strong enough, brave enough and with courage enough to draw the line and declaim against looseness of morals in

the domestic relations. The Blade stands for liberty, not license. It advocates a mental philosophy that is calculated to uplift, enrich and enlighten the world, but these attainments are not to be reached through an arrangement of indiscriminate human mating on the plan of the poultry yard. The Blade sympathizes with Gorky's unfortunate predicament, it also sympathizes with the cause he represents, but it does not approve his conduct and he should haste to amend the conditions that surround him if he hopes that success may crown his efforts.

THE STRUGGLE OF SCIENCE.

Pope assures us that the proper study of mankind is man, but in order to study man properly, there is a vast field to be traversed. To begin the study of man by taking the complex being he really is would furnish but a vague, false idea. Man is not a model, but a monstrosity, the most modified of all vertebrates. To properly study man it is necessary to go first to the simpler forms and traverse the entire range of animal life from the simplest organism to the complex individual.

There is no more attractive research in the field of modern science than that offered by Zoology as an important branch in Natural History. In addition to this it is the most extensive. Its field of operations is a world of varied forms and the task of determining their origin and development, their mutual relations and interdependency, is the labor of the scientist in the realm of this branch to upset theological dicta. Geology and Chemistry have done their full share, but Zoology reveals man as he is and enables the specie to appreciate the advice given by the poet.

Zoology can boast a remarkable and eventful history. The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, who lived and labored 400 years before the time of the Christian era, was called the "Father of Zoology" and he was certainly its only great representative in ancient times although his frequent reference to works on anatomy indicate that something had been done before him. His "History of Animals," in nine books, displays a wonderful knowledge of external structure, habits, instincts and uses. From his day through the Roman era but little was accomplished in natural science. One would naturally infer that the Roman military expeditions would have furnished them with abundant material for study. But it was not until 1600 years after Aristotle that Pliny wrote his work on Natural History.

During the Middle Ages, known as the darkest periods in history, the sciences were altogether in the hands of paganism and the close of the fifteenth century after Christ found science, or at least Natural History, just where Pliny had left it. What little science came from the Christian priesthood were but vague hypotheses and silly fancies. Students were threatened and punished, for even as now, the priesthood realized that science was a deadly foe to so-called revealed religion and it was reviled at their hands. Now the clergy seek to assimilate it and pretend to see in modern science a corollary of the church.

With a few scattering exceptions there was no real advance in scientific research until the advent of John Ray, in England, who died in 1705. His "Synopsis" published in 1693 was the first attempt to classify animals according to structure and formation. Prior to his time, however, there were Dondet and Belon in France, who lived and wrote from the beginning to the close of the fifteenth century. Salviati, in Italy, wrote during the same period. These were followed by Redi, of Italy; Swammerdam, of Holland, but it was left to the eminent Dutch naturalist, Leeuwenhoek, at about the beginning of the seventeenth century to open up a new world of life by the use of the microscope.

In every instance where these glorious savants sought to instruct the world upon the science of life and living, their efforts were frowned upon by the priesthood who gave rebuke to any specie of learning that did not emanate from the church and taught under its sanction. Many devotees of science fell the victims to the fearful inquisition, the greatest Christian crime that ever cursed the world. But these courageous men pushed on. They did not falter or hesitate in their selected course. They studied, they saw and they knew. In secret they continued to work and to their patience is due the triumph of modern science in the present, over a cruel and despotic hierarchy.

The debt that posterity owes to these men may never be fully paid, but the greatest tribute that could be paid to their blessed memory would be to act upon the advice of Pope, and believing that "the proper study of mankind is man," to undertake that study with an earnest effort to discover what man really is.

ZWEI BUSSFEST.

Ach, Mein Gott on Himmel! Was ist! Well, just to be candid it concerns a preacher, a politician, and, as usual, a woman in each case. At this writing it looks very much as if the preacher will lose his vestments, the politician his job, but God alone seems to be able to prognosticate upon the fate that awaits the ladies.

It has long been a notorious fact that a greater

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Editorial

(Continued from page one).

proportion of preachers are in prison today for crimes against the sex than any other profession, and it is equally true that the church regards the honest and upright heretic with greater horror and aversion than it does a professional Christian who has tripped up on the Seventh commandment. Preachers' fingers slandering sermons and the whoopla evangelists do but create a depraved appetite, fad a notch or two in morality themselves, and then take far stronger excitements. Thus it is that the Christian religion as taught and practiced by its professors in this land of ours is but a spider's web hanging over the black abyss while above it all in the shimmering light of glorious truth stands the Gibraltar rock of infidelity.

Only a few days ago the sensation-hunting newspapers of the country found a choice morsel and took advantage of it, yet from their morbid tales some startling fact appears that only a few days ago the Rev. Charles T. Russell, a Pittsburgh preacher, was dragged before a Pittsburgh Court, there to make answer in due legal form, how he managed to be found sitting on the bed of Miss Rosa Ball, in that young lady's room, clad only in his pajamas and good intentions. On the other hand we are informed that Governor Hoch of Kansas is now upon the official carpet of his own political party to make explanation why it was that when Mrs. Stanley, a member of the Board of Control of State Charitable Institutions, and the wife of ex-Governor Stanley, called upon him to make an inquiry concerning official business, he made an attempt to embrace her and begged for the token of her esteem in a good-bye kiss. These incidents may go far toward confirming the theory advanced by some psychologists that excessive religious excitement and abnormal sexualism are co-natural, and that politics is afflicted with a peculiar moral virus. But let us take the case of the preacher first.

According to the newspaper descriptions of the scenes that have been enacted in that Pittsburgh court they suggest a new comedy entitled "The Parson and the Pulsebeat." Naturally enough, there was not "standing room in the court room," Mrs. Russell, the injured wife of the sensuous parson was present to assist in the prosecution, and she, knowing her sinful husband, insisted that it was a clear case of "holding hands when the lights are low." But the parson simply protested that he was merely acting in the capacity of a diagnostician. He claimed that Miss Ball was very sick with fever and that in holding her hand, he was only measuring the rapidity of her pulse beat. Of course, a morbid world will be compelled to admit that it is a minister's duty to minister, may not only a duty, but a privilege, and if while ministering he finds it necessary to measure a young lady's pulse, there is nothing particularly wrong with the situation. This was the parson's plea, but as his admitted act of ministering was not really a venous service there was no reason why the reverend gentleman should shed his outer garments to perform it.

Temporarily Rev. Russell had ceased to be a doctor of divinity and had become a doctor of medicine. The testimony does not disclose whether he prescribed pills instead of prayer for his patient's malady, or faith instead of fumigation. He did admit, however, on the witness stand, that he looked upon Miss Ball as a child, and that if he did kiss and caress her was only in a "fatherly way." This has quite a fascinating sound to it and we have a sneaking suspicion that we have heard it before several thousand times. Evidently the parson did not take serious stock in the diets of morbid medicalists that disease germs and deadly bacilli browse upon the lips of beauty. The parson was willing to risk danger of contagion by osculation and take his chances on the skull and cross bones for the sake of snatching a burning kiss from the lips of his Dulsina. Had Charles been honestly sincere in his solicitude for Miss Ball's health, he could have called upon Mrs. Russell to have accompanied him, but his being in dishabille suggests that he preferred his spouse at a safe distance from such a scene. But now Charles has lost his happy home, shorn of his priestly garb and lost his commission to go about saving souls for the sake of the collection and it serves him right.

The case of Governor Hoch is not quite so serious but it shows him to have been guilty of an indiscretion, and this indiscretion in a public officer, especially one who has been an editor, is unforgivable. The Kansas Governor ought to have selected other material to work off his excess of osculatory indulgences upon. It was nothing new to Mrs. Stanley to be kissed by a Governor as she is the wife of an ex-Gov. It is a safe presumption, therefore, that she had been kissed by a Governor before, hence, the sacred touch of lip to lip bore no sensation, nothing new, for her. It is also reported that Mrs. Stanley, being a strong minded woman, and a club member, resented the indignity and that it took the Governor three long hours trying to console her and apologize for the affront. At the best Governor Hoch allowed himself to get double-crossed, first by taking a desperate chance, second by getting found out.

As for Mr. Stanley, the ex-Gov., he is not likely to produce much sympathy at this late stage for he is altogether too tardy with his complaints. The man who passes over an alleged insult to his wife, even from the Governor of his state, until he sees a chance to make political capital out of it, does not appeal to a justice loving public. Most men would have grabbed a shotgun the very moment they found it out, and would have been in each barrel. Doubtless Hoch found this little game of playing with human hearts a very pretty pastime while it lasted, and we are not prone to the belief that Stan-

ley is too much "damned in a fair wife," although it is chronicled that the lady is "fair to look upon." Therefore, as between Stanley and Hoch, we prefer the latter, although, at this writing it begins to look as if the voters of Kansas will give both the morbid heart.

It has been a mistaken rule with the "injured husband" and condemn the man, altogether un mindful of the fact that when a woman goes astray nine times out of ten it is altogether the husband's fault. Love is a dangerous game to play, and off begun in simple mischief ends in wilful madness. Governor Hoch must know that no man has the right to pounce upon the preserves of another, but if he tries it and meets with a rebuff, he must take the consequences he wants they may. Saints are too scarce among men in this country, and that is why when the devil goes fishing for them, he baits his hook with a sunbloom. This is abundant proof that he understands his business. Both Reverend Russell and Governor Hoch will bear testimony to that fact. Doubtless the preacher was engaged in discoursing upon morals while knocking the saw dust out of the Seventh commandment. This is why Russell gets the house from the pulpit and Hoch gets fired from the Governor's chair.

There may be more in both of these cases of Basest than will ever reach the light of day. It is none the less true, that no matter what their calling or profession, men will continue to gaze upon womanly beauty and grace as upon some wondrous flower wafted from Elysian fields and will feast upon their eyes as shining orbs that light the way to heaven or hell. But the world has run short on masculine continence since Joseph of Canaan was gathered to his fathers. Josephs are seldom commodities in these days. These sinful preachers, seem to be white elephants on the hands of the deity and one may well wonder what he will do with them in the sweet by and by.

AND THE ASS SPOKE.

"Infidels are marshalling their forces against the Christian churches. Utter demolition of the churches and Bible is their war cry. Suppose that anarchists could uproot and overturn our government, and that infidels could destroy our churches and our Bibles, what then? Chaos, emptiness and blood-letting would prevail. Then we would have taken long, a very long step backward into the dark past."

The above literary gem is from the editorial columns of the Universalist Herald, a professing religious organ published at Canon, Georgia. Whether it be edited by negroes or whites the reader cannot infer, but in any event it resembles some backwoods effusion evolved from the idiotic brain of some thieving fox. The statement would suggest that the creator had an abundance of very raw material when he manufactured its author. Upon perusing such a celestial brain mass one would imagine that the Lord had sent infidels into the world to induce man to wander with blistered feet and bleeding hands, hopeless and helpless, through the desolate regions of the damned.

Not so fast, Good masters, be ye black or white, although we are very much inclined to judge ye to be the former. You must be impressed with the notion that we must first leave this world in order to find the face of deity or devil, but fortunately for mankind you are not left to be the judge who shall determine what manner of men are to be given a harp in the great hereafter, or who shall be made to dance to music of quite a different setting. You may be able to read your title clear to mansions in the skies, but be careful that your betters do not advise you to leave your present homestead.

It has long been a favorite theme with ignorant pulpiters that the great aim of infidelity is to destroy the church and to destroy the Bible. Upon the ignorant that gather about the wooden benches in prayer meeting it is calculated to have a wonderful effect. Thinking people can hardly believe it possible that there be men and women in this day and age who would give precious time to such trifling. Here stands the mighty universe yet unexplored, the secret of man's origin still enshrouded in mystery, his destination a mere matter of speculation, and pitiful preachers still impede progress by the editors of the Herald, black and female, really desire to be useful, they should spit at a mark or play croquet, instead of trying to save souls by such intellectual tommyrot.

Instead of destroying the churches, infidels would transform them into temples of learning, institutions of education, of teaching instead of preaching. In its curriculum the infidels would place the arts and sciences as substitutes for prayer and catechism. The infidel would teach man as he is and not preach man as he is not. They would fanigate the so-called edifice of the holy ghost and install man as the Lord of his own life. Instead of making man prayerfully subservient to God, they would make God fearfully subservient to man. It is not the outside of the church that infidels would attack but what has been going on for centuries on the inside. They would tell the forlorn widow to keep her mite and cease despoiling her pantry to enable some lazy loafer to live in idleness and luxurious ease. They would instruct confiding childhood to keep their pennies instead of stuffing them into the so-called missionary box to feed an army of white-chokered idlers across the seas.

And so chaos and emptiness would follow! What existed but chaos and emptiness during all the centuries when the Christian church held an absolute and despotic sway? The very liberty and freedom which these United States can boast, about which the Herald so glibly raves, were the results of the labor of infidels, men who disregarded evangelical Christianity and refused to countenance any such a fiction in human progress. This nation, the petted child of the world's age, is a standing argument against the alleged potency of the Chris-

tian religion for good. It is such harangues in print that is responsible for much of the misery in the world, ever a breeder of anarchy, which the Herald derides. The "blood-letting," has been a favorite pastime with the church and her very history is dyed with the crimson stain. The Christian church had its very origin in the letting of blood and it has diligently practiced the art from the day of its inception until the present. From Calvary's Hill to China is a great step, but in all the stretch there is not a green spot upon which to rest the weary eye. The "dark past" to which the Herald refers was church created and the gloomy foreboding for the future emanate from church authority. It is the infidels who have ever been in the vanguard of liberty's great army, ever pushing onward and upward, their feet pressing down the thorns that others may pass on untroubled, blazing the way up the rugged mountains of faith that posterity may pass on to liberty's greatest heights.

In regard to the Bible, the statement is half a truth, wholly a lie. Infidels care not what becomes of the Bible so long as the editors of the Herald do not force it upon them. Infidels regard the Bible as a bit of oriental hangeary which ought to be kept under lock and key with Don Juan and the Decameron of Boecacio. Within its pages may be found a few bright gems in an ocean of slime. To seriously contemplate it would reduce the mind of men to a machine which grinds no grist for the hungry multitude. If the editors of the Herald, male and female, or hermaphrodite, feel inclined to cherish the Bible and hug a delusion, it is none of our business and they may continue to hug to their heart's content, but do not, a suffering people implore them, err on it down the throats of ignorance as the name of wisdom and truth. The Bible is but a book. Men are superior to all books. It may be that some future day, provided your think-tank is in good working order, an idea may strike you, but you will be able to survive the shock.

EDITORIAL COMPLIMENT.

During the past three months we have received many editorial compliments upon the improved appearance and quality of the Blade. Numerous personal letters have been received from prominent Freethinkers commendatory of our labors. These are well calculated to cheer and encourage, deserving stimuli and much needed. On the top of them all comes the following from Singleton Waters Davis, editor of the Humanitarian Review, published at Los Angeles, Cal.: "The Blue Grass Blade, Lexington, Ky., is, in my opinion, much improved since Mr. Hughes became its editor."

WELL KNOWN LIBERAL PUBLISHER DEAD.

With heartfelt sympathy and regret the Blade announces to its readers, this week, the death of Peter Eckler, of New York, which occurred at his home in Brooklyn, May 1st. The funeral took place May 3. The notice was sent to this office by Mrs. Jeanette P. Eckler, his daughter and son, Mrs. B. Clifford Kline and Carl D. Eckler. At this writing we are not in possession of the immediate cause of death although we pronounced it came from natural causes as Mr. Eckler had reached a ripe, old age. For many years he had been one of the foremost Freethought publishers in America, was a close, personal friend of the late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, and identified with the cause of Freethought in America.

The sorrows of his loved ones are recently shared by us and all who knew the departed.

The many friends of the late Editor Moore will doubtless find that the Memorial pamphlet is now upon their desks or tables. It has been published and mailed out to those who had subscribed in advance. We desire to direct the attention of our readers to this tribute to the memory of the founder of the Blade and urge a wide sale. The orations delivered over his grave furnish good and argumentative reading matter in addition to being gems of rare literary value. The cost of the pamphlet is trivial and it is deserving of a wide distribution. It is an invaluable missionary document being a complete answer to the deathless arguments of the Christian priesthood. We will mail one copy to any address in the United States and Canada for 15 cents, or ten copies for one dollar. If you have not subscribed for it you should do so now. The ante-subscriptions to it were not enough to pay the cost of publication and we are depending on a large sale for its success.

American labor is being bamboozled by politicians and sandbagged by plutocrats until it is losing faith in everything but brute force. While deriding anarchy the laborer is being gradually forced to the conclusion that it could be no worse than an era of starvation. It would be wiser to have the pressure reduced, to concede a part now than to be compelled to give up all a little later, to yield gracefully to an irresistible force than to continue opposing it, until destruction becomes inevitable.

Prodigality on the part of the rich may personally benefit a few parasites, just as the bursting of a molasses barrel fattens a few flies, but will waste, by reducing the amount of wealth available for reproduction, breeds general want. The time is not far distant when Lazarus will cease crying for crumbs, but will swipe the table-cloth.

The Christian religion has ever been a brake on the wheels of human progress. It is a straight jacket upon society which prevents it from expanding. Its influence is used to aggravate social deformities and make them permanent. It is the sworn enemy of every man who would better the social and industrial condition of his fellows, who would lift civilization to a higher plane.

WITH OUR EXCHANGES

Symposium of Liberal Papers Published in America. These be the Sentinels of Liberty and Worthy of Liberal Support.

To-Morrow Magazine, published at Chicago, Parker H. Servome, editor. Ranks among the most progressive, active and vigorous periodicals in America. It has a corps of brilliant writers on its staff which now includes Walter Hurl following its consolidation with the Cultivist.

Humanitarian Review, published at Los Angeles, editor Singleton Waters Davis. The leading article in the May number is from the pen of the editor and deals with the subject of future life, regarding it as a childish delusion. The quality of the magazine is of that high class which should appeal to the student of social and religious problems.

The Truth Seeker, published at New York, editor E. M. Macdonald. One of the oldest Freethought publications on this continent and who has been a consistent antagonist of orthodoxy, has lost none of its pristine vigor and seems prosperous as ever.

Appeal to Reason, published at Girard, Kansas, editor, J. A. Wayland. Devoted exclusively to Socialism and economic reform, advancement of the interests of labor. It was recently denied the use of the mails in Canada on the trumped up charge of sedition. It has a very wide circulation.

Referendum News, published at Washington, D. C., editor, George H. Shibley. Deals exclusively with the referendum and initiative and is advocating a great, national campaign on those subjects.

A Staffed Club, published at Denver, Colo., editor Dr. J. H. Tilden. Always has a "Club Staffed" for somebody. It is bright, cheery and argumentative.

The Malthusian, published in London, England, editor Dr. C. R. Drysdale. Its purpose may be inferred from its nomenclature and its policy is to carry on a crusade against poverty.

The Freethinker, published at London, England, editor, G. W. Fiske. One of the most advanced Freethought publications in the world. It is aggressive and attractive. It is now the leading Freethought advocate in Great Britain and is doing a valuable work for the cause.

Secular Thought, published at Toronto, Canada, editor, J. Spencer Ellis. This journal was established by the late Charles Watts who edited it for years. Its present has maintained the excellent standard its founder set and it should have an extensive circulation.

Chicago physicians have done more for the prophet of Zion than would the general public. They have held an inquest upon him and pronounced him sane. Is it a case of more rogue than fool?

Now comes a St. Louis woman who sues her husband for divorce on the ground, as she avers, that he refuses to kiss her. She ought to get it and then ask for an interview with Governor Hoch of Kansas.

Worship of God has been defined as "human love directed to the unseen" but human love is at best a refinement of the brute passion. Lust and religion spring from the same source as surely as the fragrant magnolia blooms from the noxious Jimson weed came from the same soil. When the human mind is rendered morbid by religion it is simply a degeneration while love has a tendency to revert to first principles, hence, religious fanaticism and moral perversion are too frequently united in the same person.

When a great nation deprives labor of its dues by arbitrary laws to put gold into the pockets of the pampered rich, the end of its glory is nigh. Every empire and aspiring republic in the world's great history was slain with a dagger of fine gold. To feed and lie dormant is not the all in all of existence, life on this earth is deserving of more. The world is not to be saved by the science of definition. Labor insists upon being shown the path that leads to the orchard.

Religions are born and like all else they must die. Even must it be so with the prevailing orthodox religion. The Tower of Babel lifted its spiral columns to kiss the clouds, then, crumbled into dust. Religions come and go, they meet with a common fate. All will be swept by the broom of Time into the world's great rubbish-heap as intellectual trash, even in its turn passing into the tomb of the world's history to be lost in the murky shadows of the centuries.

After all the call to preach may be but the braying of an ass beyond the hills. It is passing strange, however, that mighty few of our modern preachers, who claim to be serving the Lord only, can hear him calling with an offer of a sixty per cent in salary. There be the seasons when the parson turneth a deaf ear.

The old copy-books told us "Knowledge is Power," but that all depends. The knowledge that labor is the universal creator of all wealth has enabled no slave to toil to help himself out of the industrial hole. Plutocracy has yet to learn that it is a waste of lather to shave an ass.